

Canada Wants Cash for Cosmos 954 Cleanup

I looked through the window and saw this object coming toward me," recalled Marie Ruman of Yellowknife, in the Canadian Northwest Territories. "The main part was like a bright fluorescent light. There were lots of small parts trailing behind it. The pieces were bigger than shooting stars, and each had a long bright tail. None of it made a sound."

It was the white fire of Cosmos 954, a nuclear-powered Soviet spy satellite which, 1 year ago, broke apart in the atmosphere and scattered radioactive debris across the Canadian Arctic.

On 23 January 1979, just 1 day before the first anniversary of the Cosmos crash and 1 day before the deadline prescribed by international law, Canada handed the Soviets a \$6.1-million bill for the cleanup. It was the first claim of its kind. Canadian Foreign Minister Don Jamieson said that the bill included only those expenses above normal salary and equipment costs. Canada spent a total of \$13.7 million on the 35,000-square-mile search and recovery operation. While the Soviet Union has never officially accepted responsibility for cleanup costs, Jamieson said Soviet comments implied acceptance, although Canada is still awaiting an official reply from Moscow. Added Jamieson: "I presented the ambassador literally a briefcase full of documents."

United States assistance, which at its peak included five military planes, three gamma-radiation detection devices, and 120 personnel, cost a total of \$2 million over and above normal expenses, according to Colonel Roy Lounsbury, director of Safety, Environment, and Emergency Action within the office of military applications of the Department of Energy. No U.S. bill was handed to either the Canadians or the Soviets. Said Lounsbury: "We wouldn't have put up a fight if the Canadians offered to repay us, but they never asked what it cost."

The 5-ton, 46-foot-long satellite was powered by 100 pounds of enriched uranium. It scattered itself in a long arc over the thinly populated Northwest Territories in the early hours of 24 January 1978. In the following

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inhabitants' theories depend on data show physician fees to be higher in areas where there are more physicians—opposite of what one might normally expect. This suggests that each physician generates his own patient demand in order to maintain income—that by limiting the number of physicians, health care costs will go downward, not up. Sloan, however, says that more refined studies demonstrate that although this may be so for specialty medical practices, it is not so for general practitioners and general surgeons—in these areas, fees are higher or the same when physician density is high, when mathematically corrected for living costs. "Calculus has no appeal to policy-makers," Sloan says. "Generally, all studies appear to demonstrate that physician's earnings are in high-density areas, despite the fees. The explanation appears to be the same phenomenon cited by Porter: shorter working hours for these doctors. In this light, decreasing the number of physicians may decrease the charges in the specialty fields, but not necessarily among general practitioners and surgeons. And, unless physicians are willing to return to greater working hours, fees in general will not increase by much."

This is already known in part. When education grants were reauthorized by Congress in 1976, the law was amended to target enrollment incentives at the level of primary care, where fees have generally been affected by the number of practitioners. Ending the capitation grants would have the obvious effect of ending this incentive for education in primary care.

DuVal suggests that an alternative might be to maintain current capitation funding as an entitlement, and provide additional funds as a reward for diminishing class sizes—a sort of reverse capitation. Medical schools would no doubt hurry to participate in such a plan, which would provide enormous economies. Alas, such a proposal does not satisfy the test of trimming the federal budget and reducing the deficit, which was apparently applied this year to everything OMB could get its hands on. It is because federal support to medical schools has already been on a downward trend that many in Congress and academia were piqued by this latest, additional cut. They will, in all probability, be heard before the legislative session ends, setting the issue aside until the fair is restaged next year. Without much hard data on either side, the debate can go on forever.—R. JEFFREY SMITH

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months, the U.S. and Canadian governments found thousands of radioactive pieces ranging from pepperflake fragments to an object the size of a 5-gallon drum. Forty-one beryllium rods and 6 beryllium cylinders were also found. In all, more than 4000 pieces of satellite debris, weighing some 200 pounds, were located.

AT & T Hits Files of Ten Federal Agencies

Some call it simply "The Big Case." Others say it will be the "largest lawsuit in the history of litigation."

By whatever name, the government's antitrust suit against the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (AT & T) is finally picking up steam after 4 years of jurisdictional bickering and charges of delay. The action right now centers on discovery—a pretrial process by which each side has a chance to see what evidence the other side has and to dig for all the facts. And it is more than just a polite exchange of envelopes. For ten federal agencies, a troublesome aspect of discovery is the current sweep by AT & T attorneys through huge piles of agency files.

In a suit filed under the antimonopolization section of the Sherman antitrust act, the government is seeking nothing less than the divestiture of AT & T's manufacturing arm, Western Electric Co., which last year had sales of \$8 billion; its Long Lines Department, which encompasses the company's long-distance network; and even some of its operating companies. AT & T is trying to find evidence in the government's files that will counter the monopoly claim.

"It's difficult to know just what they're looking for," says Arthur Kusinski, an attorney with the National Science Foundation. As of last 18 December, says Kusinski, AT & T has been perusing NSF files in search of . . . well, just about anything, it seems, that will strengthen AT & T's defense.

The search is called for by a court order that was issued last summer. In 28 pages, it defines the scope of the search, and includes not only all communications between NSF and the

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